

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to an Office Action dated March 19, 2007. In the Office Action, claim 8 was objected to based on an informality. Claim 8 has been amended accordingly. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,170,026). Moreover, claims 1-4, 6-9, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Bastiani (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,628); claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Bastiani and Jonsson (U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0036350) and claim 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Bastiani and Sekiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,115).

Herein, claims 1, 8, 16-17 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview Summary

On June 14, 2007, the undersigned attorney conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner and supervisory examiners. The undersigned attorney discussed the primary references, in particular Kimura and Bastiani, and described the differences between these references and the claimed subject matter. No agreement was reached, however, the parties tentatively agreed to conduct a secondary interview, as needed, if the proposed claims are not in condition for allowance.

The undersigned attorney respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, after further examination, further elaboration of claim terms are needed to place the pending claims into condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. As repeated above, the examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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